

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 281625Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3060

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1135

FOLLOWING IBADAN 0060 23 JAN RPT FOR YOUR INFO:

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM. PINR, NI

SUBJECT: BOLAJI AKINYEMI: THE EMINENCE GRIS OF NIGERIAN FOREIGN
POLICY?

REF: A) IBADAN MEMO TO FILES OF FEBRUARY 27, 1975,

B) 74 LAGOS A-136

1. SUMMARY: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS HAVE LED US TO SPECULATE
THAT DR. BOLAJI AKINYEMI, DIRECTOR OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE
OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, IS HAVING A LARGE IMPACT ON
NIGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY ANDMAY BE ACTING AS PERSONAL ADVISOR
TO GENS MOHAMMED AND OBASANJO ON FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS.
IF TRUE, THIS COULD PROVIDE A GUIDE TO FUTURE NIGERIAN
ACTIONS, AND A CLUE TO OUTCOME OF CURRENT FMF FOREIGN POLICY
REVIEW RECENTLY ANNOUNCED BY MEA COMMISSIONER GARBA. END
SUMMARY.

2. WE ARE STRUCK BY STRONG COINCIDENCE OF FOREIGN
POLICY VIEWS RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY RANKING FMG OFFICIALS
(MOHAMMED, OBASANJO, GARBA) WITH THOSE PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO
BE HELD BY NIIA DIRECTOR BOLAJI AKINYEMI. IN ADDITION,
AKINYEMI'S RECENT APPEARANCES AT KEY MEETINGS SUGGESTS
HE MAY HAVE CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE OVER BOTH FOREIGN
POLICY AND OPERATIONS, AND THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN MOST
INFLUENTIAL IN OVERRIDING GARBA'S AND OTHER MODERATES'
STAND ON THE ANGOLA QUESTION REPORTED LAGOS 0716. HE
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ACCOMPANIED MOHAMMED TO THE OAU SUMMIT MEETING ON ANGOLA

AND IS REPORTED TO HAVE ADDRESSED A RECENT WEEK-LONG
SEMINAR FOR SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS IN IBADAN, WHICH
WAS HELD TO EXPLAIN FOREIGN POLICY LINE TO TOP BRASS.
OBASANJO, ADDRESSING MID-DECEMBER SECOND DIVISION OFFICERS'
CONFERENCE (ALSO ADDRESSED BY AKINYEMI) USED ONE OF AKINYEMI'S
FAVORITE PHRASES: "THERE ARE IN INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS NO PERMANENT FRIENDS, ONLY PERMANENT INTERESTS."
THIS PHRASE ALSO SUMS UP WHAT WE SENSE TO BE AKINYEMI'S
PHILOSOPHY OF UNDERCOOKED REALPOLITIK. BARR.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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